

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: By Chairman Dennis Himmelberger, on March 23, 2007 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 455 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Dennis Himmelberger, Chairman (R)
Rep. Duane Ankney, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Hal Jacobson, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Debby Barrett (R)
Rep. Gary Branae (D)
Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick (R)
Rep. Teresa Henry (D)
Rep. Dennis Himmelberger (R)
Rep. Pat Ingraham (R)
Rep. William J. Jones (R)
Rep. Bruce Malcolm (R)
Rep. Walter McNutt (R)
Rep. Alan Olson (R)
Rep. Mike Phillips (D)
Rep. Veronica Small-Eastman (D)
Rep. Franke Wilmer (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Scott Sales

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Dee Barfknecht, Committee Secretary
Sheri Heffelfinger, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: SB 509, SB 517, SB 532, SB 443
Executive Action: None

HEARING ON SB 532

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:08 Sen. Steven Gallus (D), SD 37, opened the hearing on SB 532, Revise firefighter retirement laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:03:55 Doug Neil, Montana State Fireman's Association
00:05:05 William Rash, Chief, Lockwood Rural Fire District, Billings
00:12:17 William Colwell, Operations Chief, Missoula Rural Fire District
00:13:58 Brett Waters, Chief, Bozeman/Belgrade Central Valley Fire District
00:16:14 Greg Orr, Captain, Missoula Rural Fire District
00:17:08 Allan Hutton, Firefighter/Paramedic, Lockwood Rural Fire District, Billings
00:18:59 Jason Revisky, Fire Chief, Gallatin Canyon Consolidated Rural Fire District and Big Sky Fire Department
00:19:42 Roxanne Minnehan, Executive Director, Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration

EXHIBIT(sth62a01)

00:22:30 Kurt Bushnell, President, Montana State Firemans Association
00:23:56 Jack Trethewey, Montana State Council of Professional Firefighters

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:24:34 Rep. Phillips
00:25:09 Mr. Bushnell
00:25:29 Rep. Phillips
00:25:35 Ms. Minnehan
00:26:06 Rep. Dickenson
00:27:03 Ms. Minnehan
00:28:03 Rep. Dickenson
00:28:09 Ms. Minnehan
00:28:20 Rep. Ingraham
00:29:17 Mr. Neil
00:31:22 Rep. Ingraham
00:31:42 Mr. Neil
00:31:48 Rep. Ingraham

00:32:15 Mr. Neil
00:33:58 Rep. Ingraham
00:34:59 Mr. Neil
00:35:11 Rep. Ingraham
00:35:18 Mr. Waters
00:38:19 Sheri Heffelfinger
00:43:01 Rep. Jacobson
00:44:13 Mr. Rash
00:44:57 Rep. Jacobson
00:45:27 Ms. Heffelfinger
00:47:32 Rep. Ankney
00:48:10 Rep. Barrett
00:48:50 Sen. Gallus
00:49:28 Rep. Barrett
00:49:40 Sen. Gallus
00:50:06 Rep. Ankney
00:50:48 Mr. Waters
00:53:01 Rep. Dickenson
00:53:15 Kim Flatow, Montana Public Employee Retirement
Administration
00:54:44 Ms. Heffelfinger

Closing by Sponsor:

00:55:03 Sen. Gallus

00:57:21 Break
01:04:07 Reconvene

HEARING ON SB 509

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:04:15 Sen. Steven Gallus (D), SD 37, opened the hearing on SB 509, Prohibit constituency money in lieu of state funding for services.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:08:14 Linda Gryczan, League of Women Voters
01:09:36 Elizabeth Andrews, Montana Common Cause

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

01:11:30 Dennis Unsworth, Commissioner of Political Practices

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:13:49 Rep. Jones
01:14:23 Mr. Unsworth
01:14:37 Rep. Jones
01:14:43 Mr. Unsworth
01:14:56 Rep. Jones
01:15:29 Mr. Unsworth
01:15:49 Sen. Gallus
01:17:15 Rep. Branae
01:17:43 Sen. Gallus
01:18:33 Rep. Hendrick
01:18:59 Mr. Unsworth
01:19:54 Rep. Hendrick
01:20:18 Mr. Unsworth
01:22:24 Rep. Hendrick
01:22:59 Mr. Unsworth
01:23:18 Rep. Malcolm
01:23:52 Sen. Gallus
01:24:37 Rep. Malcolm
01:24:58 Sen. Gallus
01:25:36 Rep. Dickenson
01:26:59 Sen. Gallus
01:27:52 Rep. Dickenson
01:28:06 Sen. Gallus
01:28:11 Rep. Dickenson
01:28:18 Mr. Unsworth
01:28:40 Rep. Ingraham
01:29:32 Mr. Unsworth
01:30:07 Sen. Gallus
01:30:36 Rep. Ingraham
01:30:57 Sen. Gallus
01:31:47 Rep. Ingraham
01:32:14 Rep. Phillips
01:32:40 Sen. Gallus
01:33:20 Rep. Phillips
01:34:10 Sen. Gallus
01:34:16 Rep. Caferro
01:34:36 Mr. Unsworth
01:34:59 Rep. caferro
01:35:11 Mr. Unsworth
01:35:58 Rep. Ingraham
01:36:37 Ms. Andrews

Closing by Sponsor:

01:37:26 Sen. Gallus

HEARING ON SB 443

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:39:08 Sen. Carolyn Squires (D), SD 48, opened the hearing on SB 443, Revise mailing requirement for address confirmation forms for absentee ballots.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:43:10 Vicki Zeier, Clerk and Recorder Treasurer, Missoula County
01:46:28 Duane Winslow, Election Administrator, Yellowstone County
01:47:56 Elaine Graveley, Election Deputy, Secretary of State's Office
01:48:52 Linda Gryczan, League of Women Voters
01:49:07 Elizabeth Andrews, Montana Common Cause
01:49:35 Siri Smillie, Montana Conservation Voters

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

01:50:12 Sen. Squires
01:51:49 Break
02:30:15 Reconvene

HEARING ON SB 517

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:30:34 Sen. Jerry Black (R), SD 14, opened the hearing on SB 517, Revise time certain polling places are open.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:35:03 Robert Throssell, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders
02:36:48 Bonnie Ramey, Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder and Election Administrator

Opponents' Testimony:

02:42:53 Eric Stern, Governor's Office
02:44:43 Beth Brenneman, Attorney, Montana Advocacy Program
02:46:35 Elizabeth Andrews, Montana Common Cause

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:48:02 Rep. Dickenson
02:49:21 Ms. Ramey
02:49:25 Rep. Wilmer
02:50:05 Sen. Black
02:50:55 Rep. Wilmer
02:52:27 Ms. Ramey
02:52:49 Rep. Barrett
02:52:58 Ms. Brenneman
02:53:04 Rep. Barrett
02:53:11 Ms. Brenneman
02:53:17 Rep. Barrett
02:53:27 Ms. Andrews
02:53:38 Rep. Barrett
02:53:43 Ms. Andrews
02:53:49 Rep. Phillips
02:54:00 Elaine Graveley, Election Deputy, Secretary of State's
Office
02:54:39 Chairman Himmelberger
02:54:46 Rep. Phillips
02:54:51 Sen. Black
02:55:53 Rep. Ingraham
02:56:38 Ms. Graveley
02:57:18 Rep. Ingraham
02:57:37 Ms. Graveley
02:58:06 Rep. Ingraham
02:58:11 Ms. Heffelfinger

Closing by Sponsor:

02:58:42 Sen. Black

Additional Discussion:

03:02:49 Chairman Himmelberger
03:02:55 Rep Olson
03:02:58 Chairman Himmelberger

ADJOURNMENT

03:03:25 Adjournment

REP. DENNIS HIMMELBERGER, Chairman

DEE BARFKNECHT, Secretary

DH/db

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([sth62aad.pdf](#))